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Spy Case Judge Criticize CIA's Lax Satellite Security

By Robert Pear Washington Star Staff Writer

The judge in the Kampiles espionage case has privately reprimanded the CIA for its lax security around secret information pertaining to an American spy satellite.

The judge's concern was disclosed yesterday at a congressional hearing during an exchange between CIA General Counsel Anthony A. Lapham and members of the House Intelligence Committee.

Rep. Morgan F. Murphy, D-III., chairman of the legislation subcommittee, said the judge had "scolded" CIA Director Stansfield Turner for the government's "lax procedures."

Turner apparently sent a reply to the judge's letter, but details of the correspondence were not released. A CIA spokesman later said the agency had no further comment because the exchange was "private correspondence between the director and a, judge."

U.S. District Judge Phil M. McNagny Jr., who presided over the Kampiles trial, likewise declined to comment.

WILLIAM P. KAMPILES, 24, a former CIA clerk, was sentenced to 40 years in prison after being convicted last Nov. 17 in federal court in Indiana of selling top-secret satellite plans to the Soviet Union.

He has filed a notice of appeal with the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago

Assistant Attorney General Philip B. Heymann, who heads the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, is reviewing the manner in which national security information was handled in the Kampiles case.

He has asked the CIA to suggest steps that might be taken to improve the handling of such information in future espionage prosecutions.

David T. Ready, the U.S. attorney for Indiana who prosecuted the case, said yesterday he was unaware of the judge's letter.

During the trial, Ready said, it became clear that the CIA didn't know the document in question — a technical manual on the KH-11 spy satellite — was missing until Kampiles told the FBI he had sold it to the Russians.

"IT WAS GONE for almost a year without the CIA knowing it," Ready said.

Kampiles' attorney, Michael D. Monico, said he had raised CIA security procedures as an issue during the trial.

. "Just because something is missing doesn't mean that anybody stole it or that my client stole it," Monico said.

During the committee hearing yesterday, Lapham, the CIA lawyer, said that the leak of classified information to the press probably is not a criminal act, and that publication of such information by the press probably is not a criminal act under present law.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert L. Keuch quickly said he disagreed with Lapham. Keuch said that current laws forbid disclosure to the press and publication of classified information.

"Congress never intended that by going through the charade of publication, you could protect yourself" from prosecution for unauthorized disclosures, Keuch said.

The law clearly forbids disclosure of national security secrets to a foreign power, but disclosure to the press is a more complicated question, witnesses said.

"The laws stand idle and are not enforced at least in part because their meaning is so obscure...," Lapham testified. "These laws are so vague and opaque as to be virtually worthless."